

Supervision of Medical Students in Clinical Learning Situations

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The University of Arizona College of Medicine Phoenix and Tucson campuses recognize and support the importance of graded and progressive responsibility in medical student education. This policy outlines the requirements to be followed when supervising medical students. The college's goal is to promote safe patient care and maximize students' development of skills, knowledge, and attitudes needed to enter the practice of medicine.

Supervising Physician Definition

An attending physician employed by the College of Medicine; a community/rural attending physician with an associate faculty appointment at the College of Medicine; a resident or fellow physician training in a graduate medical education program at or associated with the College of Medicine.

Responsibility

It is the responsibility of the supervising faculty member and/or site director to assure that the specifications of this policy are followed for all medical students of the University of Arizona College of Medicine.

Allied Healthcare Providers

When a medical student is participating in a private practice setting in which allied healthcare providers are present, it is the responsibility of the supervising faculty physician to assure that the allied healthcare providers are appropriately credentialed and capable of medical student supervision within the scope of their practice.

When a medical student is participating in a hospital-based practice, it is assumed that all allied healthcare providers employed are appropriately credentialed by the hospital and capable of medical student supervision within the scope of their practice.

Supervision Levels

- **Direct Supervision With Supervising Physician Present:** The supervising physician is physically present with the medical student and the patient and is prepared to take over the provision of patient care if/as needed.

- **Direct Supervision With Supervising Physician Available:** The supervising physician is on-duty and is available to provide direct supervision.

Clinical Supervision

- In the clinical setting (in-patient or out-patient), MS 1 and 2 students will be **directly supervised with the supervising physician present or with the supervising physician available** and MS 3 and MS 4 students will be **directly supervised with supervising physician available**.
- Faculty physicians will identify those patients for whom initial medical student supervision may be provided by fellows, residents, and/or appropriately credentialed allied healthcare providers.
- Medical Students, in the course of their educational curriculum, may take patient histories and perform complete physical examinations.
- Year 3 and year 4 medical students may enter findings in the medical record of the patient with the approval of the patient's supervising physician.
- The supervising physician will review medical student documentation and provide feedback for educational purposes.
- Clinical decisions and orders are never formulated or enacted by medical students without a supervising physician's input.
- All on-call experiences in which medical students participate are subject to the supervision rules described above.

Procedure Supervision

- Medical students may be assigned and directed to provide additional patient care services under the direct supervision of a supervising physician.
- A supervising physician is required to directly supervise (physician present or available) all procedures (clinical, in-patient bedside, emergency department, and/or operating room) in which a medical student is involved.
- The degree of supervision (direct supervision with supervision physician present or available) will take into account the complexity of the procedure, potential for adverse effects, and the demonstrated competence, maturity and responsibility of each student in order to ensure the safety and comfort of the patient.
- The supervising physician must have privileges or authorization to perform the procedure being supervised.

Relevant LCME Standard

- ED-25A. At a medical education program, students in clinical learning situations involving patient care must be appropriately supervised at all times. While students learn through graded responsibility as their skills progress, supervision at all times must ensure patient and student safety. *The accountability of physicians and non-physicians who supervise medical students in clinical learning settings will be clearly described in the program's policies and procedures. The*

level of responsibility delegated to the student by the supervisor will be appropriate for the student's level of training, and the activities supervised will be within the scope of practice of the supervising health professional.

Distribution

- This policy is distributed to all faculty within the University of Arizona College of Medicine at both the Phoenix and Tucson campuses, including clerkship directors, residency program directors, fellowship directors, and community/rural faculty preceptors.